

**United States Department of the Interior**

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Utah State Office

P.O. Box 45155

Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0155

<http://www.blm.gov>**APR 30 2008**

IN REPLY REFER TO:

3481

UTU-67939

(UT-923)

CERTIFIED MAIL - Return Receipt Requested 7007 2560 0000 5769 7935

Mr. Wesley K. Sorensen
General Manager – Skyline Mine
Canyon Fuel Company, LLC.
HCR 35, Box 380
Helper, UT 84526

Re: Abandonment of Longwall Shields Underground

Dear Mr. Sorensen:

On March 10, 2008, a request was made by Skyline Mine to leave 148 Gullick-Dobsen shields in place when the mining of 2 Left section is completed. Several shields have been damaged; two are broken in half. Leaving the shields is based on the hazards inherent with moving large longwall equipment, especially shields.

The Bureau of Land Management has consulted with the Manti-La Sal National Forest as well as with the Utah Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining. It has been determined that allowing the shields to be left underground is in compliance with the lease terms and conditions. Removal of hazardous materials from the equipment is required prior to abandonment.

Please notify this office once the longwall move has been completed identifying the exact location of where the shields are left. If you have any questions, please contact Steve Rigby of the Price Field Office at (435) 636-3604 or Jeff McKenzie of my staff at (801) 539-4038.

Sincerely,

JAMES F KOHLER

James F. Kohler
Chief, Solid Minerals Branch

cc: Price Field Office BLM
Price, UT-070
Utah Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-5801
Manti-La Sal National Forest
599 West Price River Drive
Price, UT 84501

Shield Abandonment 4-29-08 JM-SA